

For Release: Tuesday, November 17, 2015

15-2247-PHI

MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.

Technical information: (215) 597-3282 • BLInfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic

Media contact: (215) 861-5600 • BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

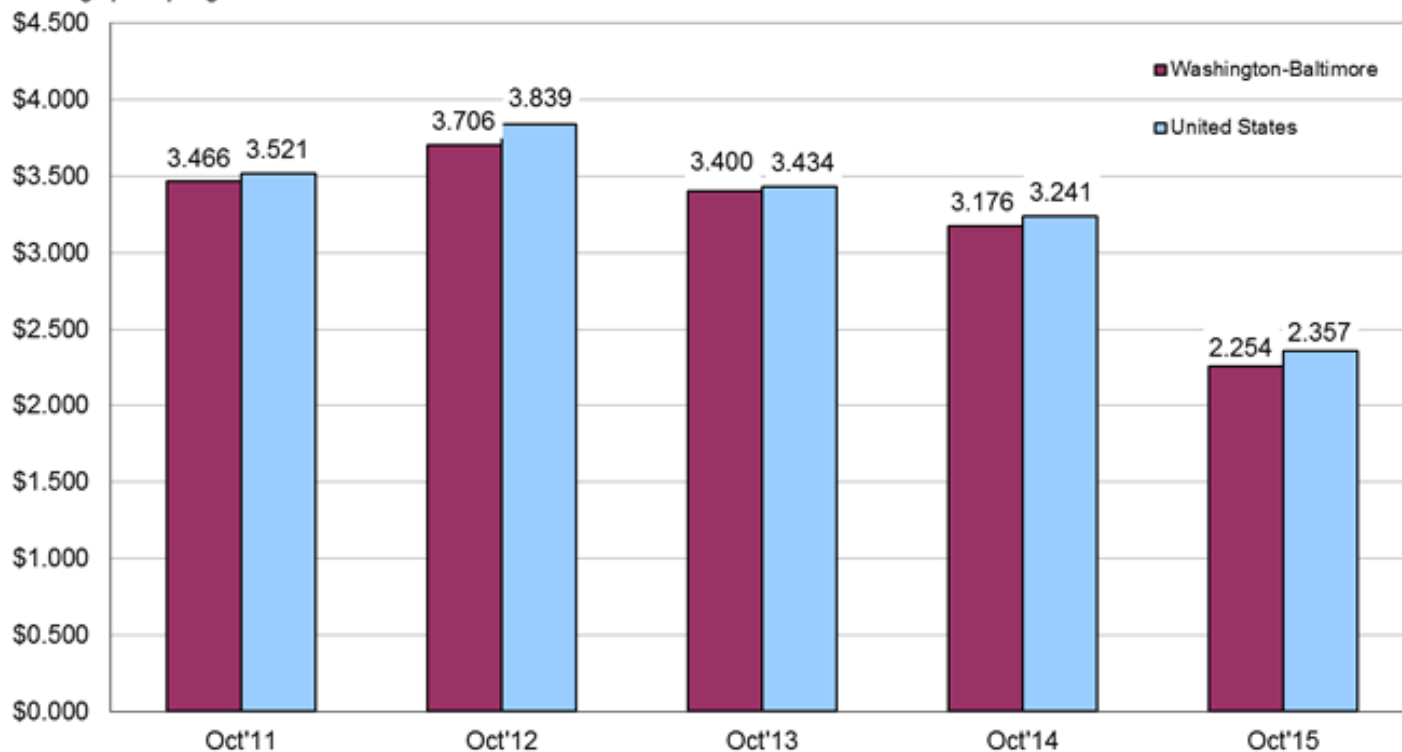
Average Energy Prices, Washington-Baltimore – October 2015

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.254 a gallon in the Washington-Baltimore area in October 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that area gasoline prices were down 29.0 percent compared to last October when they averaged \$3.176 per gallon. Washington area households paid an average of 13.6 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in October 2015, up 3.8 percent from 13.1 cents per kWh in October 2014. The average price of utility (piped) gas at \$1.002 per therm in October was down 5.0 percent from \$1.055 per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.254 a gallon, Washington area consumers paid 4.4 percent less than the national average of \$2.357 for a gallon of gasoline in October 2015. Last October, gasoline prices in Washington were similar to those for the nation. Prices for a gallon of gasoline in Washington have differed from the U.S. average by less than 5 percent in October over the past five years. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Washington-Baltimore and United States, October 2011–October 2015

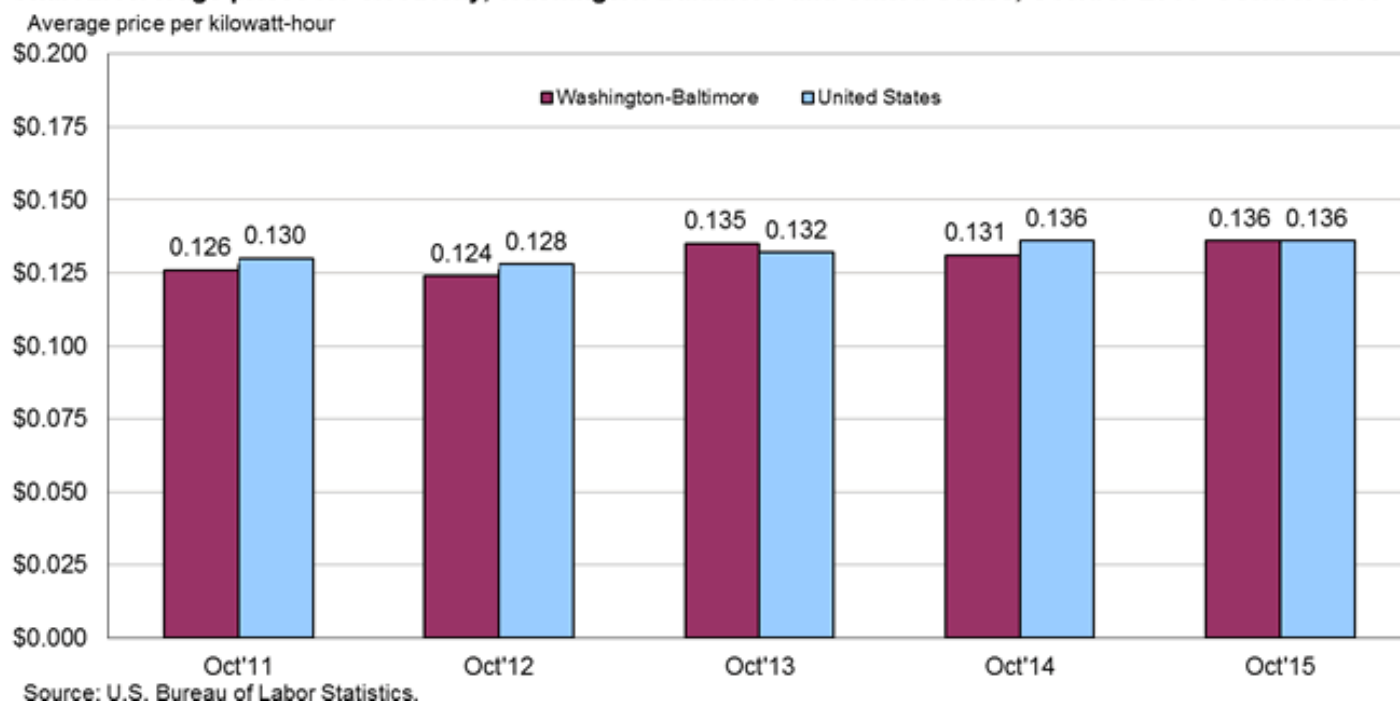
Average price per gallon



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

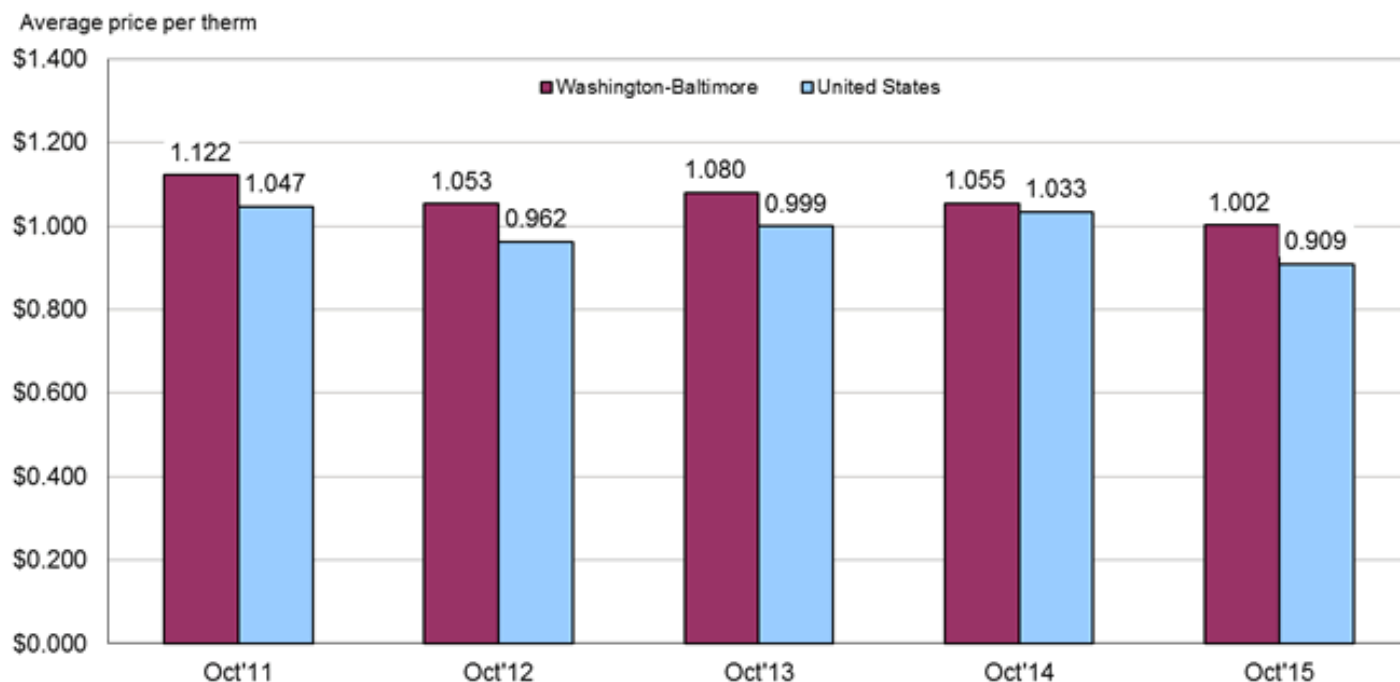
The 13.6 cents per kWh that Washington households paid for electricity in October 2015 was the same as the nationwide average of 13.6 cents per kWh. Last October, the price per kWh for electricity in Washington was 3.7 percent lower than the national average. From 2011 to 2013, Washington area electricity prices were closer to the national average, differing by 3.1 percent or less in the month of October. (See [chart 2](#).)

Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Washington-Baltimore and United States, October 2011–October 2015



The price paid by Washington area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, was \$1.002 per therm in October 2015, 10.2 percent above the national average of \$0.909 per therm. Utility (piped) gas prices in the Washington area have ranged from 2.1 to 9.5 percent higher than the national average in October over the past four years. (See [chart 3](#).)

Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Washington-Baltimore and United States, October 2011–October 2015



The **Washington-Baltimore, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va. Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes the District of Columbia; Baltimore City and the counties of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, and Washington in Maryland; the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park and the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, King George, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren in Virginia; and the counties of Berkeley and Jefferson in West Virginia.

The Consumer Price Index for November 2015 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Technical Note

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, the 3 population size classes, 10 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 14 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the

kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, United States and the Washington-Baltimore area, October 2014—October 2015, not seasonally adjusted

Year and Month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	United States	Washington-Baltimore	United States	Washington-Baltimore	United States	Washington-Baltimore
2014						
October.....	\$3.241	\$3.176	\$0.136	\$0.131	\$1.033	\$1.055
November.....	2.945	2.913	0.134	0.127	1.035	1.078
December.....	2.618	2.665	0.135	0.127	1.060	1.128
2015						
January.....	2.170	2.292	0.138	0.129	1.036	1.133
February.....	2.308	2.272	0.138	0.130	1.007	1.087
March.....	2.544	2.471	0.136	0.127	0.985	1.159
April.....	2.545	2.454	0.137	0.124	0.947	1.093
May.....	2.832	2.669	0.137	0.123	0.930	1.096
June.....	2.889	2.799	0.143	0.133	0.942	1.012
July.....	2.893	2.778	0.142	0.134	0.933	0.973
August.....	2.745	2.609	0.142	0.135	0.932	1.001
September.....	2.463	2.359	0.141	0.136	0.921	1.008
October.....	2.357	2.254	0.136	0.136	0.909	1.002